

ABSTRACT

A mailbox is developed which comprises a separated top and bottom port. A pivotally hinged gate/tray serves for depositing the incoming mail. The gate/tray has a pocket for outgoing mail and secures the top port from theft. Under the gate/tray a fixture with short wave ultraviolet (UV) light irradiates the box inside simultaneously generating ozone for a predetermined time. This time starts after the outgoing mail is put in the pocket or the incoming mail is dropped inside. A specially designed basket provides space around the mail where sanitizing gas freely diffuses. The light source can irradiate and activate gas-releasing objects generating other disinfecting gases such as chlorine, chlorine dioxide and ethylene oxide. The bottom port is closed by a locked door and allows retrieving the mail, and setting and maintaining the UV fixture. Two signals on an outside flag indicate the beginning and the end of the sanitizing process.